

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8-14, 17, 18 and 21-28 are pending and under consideration in the present application; Claims 1, 8 and 9 having been amended; Claims 4-7, 15, 16, 19 and 20 having been cancelled; and Claims 21-28 having been added by way of the present amendment. No new matter is introduced.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the drawings and to claims 5, 7-12, 16 and 20, and rejected claims 1, 6 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by **Borchardt et al.** (US 5,381,309), and claims 2-4 and 13-15 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based only on **Borchardt et al.**

With regard to the objection to the drawings, new drawings and a drawing letter are submitted herewith in duplicate. An additional drawing is included showing the features of claims 17 and 18, i.e. “a mask arranged to partially cover said diffuser sheet, such that light from said point light sources passes through at least one opening therein” and “said at least one opening in said mask is in the shape of an alphanumeric character”, without introduction of new matter, as these features are disclosed in claims 17 and 18 as originally filed and in ¶ [0027] as filed, which recited in pertinent part “The diffuser sheet 1030 may be covered by a further sheet acting as a mask (not shown), which does not permit the passage of light except through selective openings, such as cut out numerals and/or letters, for example to display a house number or other message. In an alternative embodiment, the light panel may be used as a picture frame and the mask may be the mat used in framing the picture. This results in an appealing backlighting effect”. A full set of drawings is submitted as all the sheet numbers have been

changed to reflect the correct total number of sheets. The specification has also been amended as appropriate to reflect the drawing changes, i.e. to refer to the new drawing both in the brief description of the drawings and in the detailed description. It is therefore respectfully submitted that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 7-12, 16 and 20 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, but were indicated as otherwise allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to add the feature of claim 7, and claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form. Since the Office Action indicates that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable in independent form, all the amended claims are now allowable, as they depend from amended claims 1 and 8. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by **Borchardt et al.** (US 5,381,309), this rejection is respectfully traversed. The rejection is now moot, as claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of allowable claim 7, claims 6 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 1. Note also that claim 20 was indicated as allowable in independent form, and that the amended claim 1 now gives claim 17 all the limitations of claim 20.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2-4 and 13-15 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based only on **Borchardt et al.**, this rejection is also respectfully traversed. This rejection is also now moot, as claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 depend from claim 1, which is allowable as amended, and claims 4 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Please also note that claim 9 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.


The present amendment also adds new claims 21-28. Independent claim 21 is similar to original claim 1, and includes the additional feature that "said point light sources each comprise

a lens, each said lens illuminated by a light emitting diode associated therewith". This feature is not taught or suggested by **Borchardt et al.** or by any cited reference, and therefore claim 21 is allowable, as well as claims 22-28, which are dependent therefrom. Note that new claim 28 introduces the further feature that "a focal point of each said lens substantially coincides with a focal point of said light emitting diode". These features are supported in the specification in ¶[0033].

Consequently, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

  
Alun L. Palmer  
Agent for the Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 47,838

Customer No. 33349



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Alun L. Palmer  
Patent Agent  
4300 Piney Church Road  
Waldorf, MD 20602

Tel. (301) 932-5933  
Fax. (413) 410-7652